

River rafting can send all your cares downstream

By Mark Augustine
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Fri
29 June 1984

PROVO — Summer is traditionally a busy time of year for Colleen Bennett, an office manager at a river-guide service.

With interest in river trips as high as it is, Bennett's job as reservations director keeps her on the phone or filling out paperwork for other people's trips.

But she has a way of easing the pressure and bustle. She goes on river trips herself.

Bennett recently returned from a five-day, 183-mile trip down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, a trip she says was well-worth the time and money. Between phone calls, Bennett talked about her river running.

"You get on these river trips and you just forget about all your troubles," she said. "The only thing you're concerned about is what the next rapid is. You forget everything."

This was the second such trip Bennett has taken in as many years. The first was down the Salmon in Idaho. Bennett, who said she and her husband enjoy the outdoors anyway, took her first trip after getting a job at Sierra West River Guides.

"I just happened to be looking for a job, and they had an opening here. Taking the trips is one of the advantages of working here," she said, and added, smiling, "My husband has certainly enjoyed the advantages of this job."

The Colorado River trip was made in a motorized pontoon raft, with a group of 14 people. One of the rapids, Lava Falls, was incredibly fast, she said. "If it were any worse of a rapid, it would not be navigable."

Before going through the rapid, the guide stopped the boat and took the group to shore to look at what lie ahead. "Looking down on the rapid," Bennett said, "you think, 'That doesn't look that bad.' But he had us get inside the boat as we went through it. On most of the rapids we can just straddle the tubes on the side and ride it like a horse. But on some of those bigger ones, he had us get inside, so we were protected."

She soon learned why they needed to be inside. "I looked at the side during the rapid, and you wouldn't believe how big those waves were. They were just huge."

The boat made several stops at side streams so passen-

gers could get out and swim. "My favorite," Bennett said, "was probably the Little Colorado. If you hit it at the right time, it is just blue as can be. It's nice, warm water. We stayed there and swam for a couple of hours."

During the night, the group camped on sandy beaches near the river, and on the last day a helicopter took the group back.

"That was one of my most favorite things," she said.

"They come right down to where you camped that night and fly you out of the canyon, so you can kind of get an overview of what you had done."

Bennett said the rapids came only occasionally, and between the white water are plenty of calm spots.

"When you come to those calmer parts, you just enjoy the scenery — it's so gorgeous, and you just enjoy each other's company. Also, the tour guide points out different things, telling us the history of the canyon."

"Some of the fondest memories I have are of these trips," Bennett said. On the Colorado trip the group saw some big horn sheep, after the tour guide pointed them out.

"And on the Salmon," she said, "we saw four bears. The first day we got on the river, a little cub swam out right in front of us. And then again when we stopped at an old ghost town, there was a mother and a cub, not too far off."

Bennett said the group went to shore and took pictures of the bears, "at a distance, of course. That was kind of exciting."

The wildlife, the scenery and the rapids make the trip exciting. But there is something else that makes it even more worthwhile: "Meeting

new people — when you're on the river with someone for that many days, you really get close to them," she said. "You get people from all over the United States."

The Bennetts are still in touch with a couple from California they met on the Salmon.

And for the many people planning river trips this summer, Bennett gives a word of advice: "Bring plenty of film. There was one lady on our trip who took nine rolls of 36-print film — that's so easy to do."

But there is one drawback to going — coming back. "It's hard to come back to the phones and the rat race of life after one of those trips," she said. "When you're on the river, you don't hear any phones ringing. It's just so peaceful. It's kind of hard coming back to reality."



Colleen Bennett

the film is in three dimensions, requiring special 3-D eyeglasses, only one dimension is lost.

"If you go to a typical feature film, you see a three-dimensional world projected onto a two-dimensional. Things can be projected from four dimensions down to three dimensions in the same fashion," he said.

Burton has shown his movie to research groups at International Business Machines (IBM), the University of California at Los Angeles and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Almost without exception, he said, the researchers were impressed but didn't get a true feel for the fourth dimension.

"When people see the movie, they are awed by the beauty of what they see, but they do not gain a profound feeling or intuition into hyperspace," he said. "We would like to get to the point where we can actually teach a feeling for four-dimensional space, but it's a tough nut to crack. It's not trivial problem."

Whether a fourth dimension really exists outside of mathematical hypothesis is an intriguing question that Burton enjoys asking himself, but it is not central to his research. His objective is to develop the computer's capability to create a visual representation of four or more dimensions. Others can then apply his work to pictorially present models and phenomena with more than three variables than could otherwise be presented only numerically — the picture-is-worth-a-thousand-words concept.

"If a situation or problem can be transformed into a picture, the mind can grasp the solution or problem as a whole and think creatively about meanings or solutions," he said.

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orms for use by landholders subject to provisions of the Reclamation Reform

PLEASANT GROVE — The city plans to create a special improvement district to fund sewer installation and street repairs.

The projects proposed under the district are an extension of the sewer line into the Firwood Subdivision, an extension of the sewer line into the Cascade Meadows Subdivision, street improvements in the Crystal View Subdivision and asphalt on 14th East.

For the sewer projects, costs have been estimated for each lot owner at \$13 per front foot for the main line, \$300 for the line running to house and \$1,000 for the connection.

Street repairs in Crystal View are estimated at \$2,700 per lot and re-

paving on 14th East is estimated at \$7.50 per foot.

A curb and gutter has also been proposed for 14th East. The cost of that would probably be \$8 per foot in addition to the asphalt expenses, said City Engineer Lee Wimmer.

A public information meeting about the improvement district is scheduled July 10 at 7 p.m. in the Public Safety Building. A protest meeting is scheduled July 23 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

If anyone of the four project areas receive a protest of 50 percent or more of the affected population, the district will not be created, said Mark Johnson, administrative assistant. No response is considered a yes vote.

Am.F Hospital expands social services

AMERICAN FORK — American Fork Hospital has expanded the role of its social services department, which helps patients and their families deal with social, emotional and practical concerns that often accompany hospitalization.

Problems include disruption of work, misunderstandings between patients and family members and communication problems between the patient and medical staff.

Since family members are often unable to provide physical or medical care after the patient is discharged, social services can help arrange alternative care, such as home nursing care, meals or special equip-

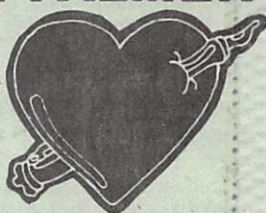
ment. The department can also help locate financial help if necessary.

Most social services are free during hospitalization. A social worker can render service at the request of the patient or by physician referral.

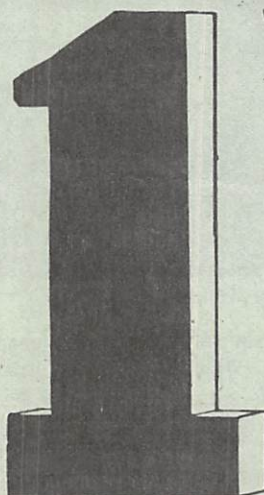
His is the heart beat

DOUG PALMER

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writer



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